

## DR. CHARLES SHIPLEY HOUSE

172 EAST MAIN STREET

The house that Dr. Charles Shipley built around 1900 would not be out of place in, say, Cape May. It is, however, if not out of place, at least unusual in Westminster. Straddling the border between the shingle and Queen Anne styles, the house could be viewed in two ways, either as an aberration or as an extension of a standard Carroll County house. Certain features place it firmly, if belatedly, within the national "Shingle Movement" - the moderate pitched roof, almost invisible behind the broad gables, the round turret and the fairly unified color. However, except for chromatic unity, none of these features fit into the general trend of Westminster's domestic building patterns. It could be possible to analyze the house as an overly - decorated five-bay, central-hall building, but it seems better to accept it as a self-wished and, as a visual, aesthetic, and intellectual intermission of Main Street's seemingly perpetual pageant. It was, after all, located on a small but definite slope and set back 15' from the sidewalk - thus separating it in site and elevation from its more conformist neighbors.

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CAXX 370

0703704604

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dr. Charles Shipley House

AND/OR COMMON

Haines Apartments

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

172 East Main Street (MD 32)

6

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Carroll

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

—BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

#### PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE S

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Walter T. Haines, Jr.

Telephone #: 848-5622

STREET & NUMBER

639 Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 236

Folio #: 123

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**


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Number 172 East Main Street, Westminster, a large, quiet, shingle style house, which dominates the intersection of that street with Center Street, is an interesting expansion of number 222 East Main Street, which is, in turn, an interesting expansion of the standard five-bay house. Several forces are at work here seeking prominence, though none succeed.

One of the main actors here is the three story hexagonal tower which rises at the eastern third of the building's north facade. Each of its three exposed sides has, on the second and third stories, a single double-hung sash window whose upper pane is, encircled by a stained glass border; ground floor windows, also three in number are merely 1/1 paned. These, and all windows, are simply enframed above narrow white wooden sills. The tower is capped by a conical red asbestos covered roof, with a large ball and spike finial. The tower is covered with grey imbricated shingles.

A large pedimental-shaped gable fills the rest of the facade's third story and is covered with diamond-shaped shingles. The lower 2/3 of this gable is recessed and contains a double window, each of which is similar to those on the third (or second) story of the tower. Three small brackets (one at either end, one between the two windows) support the upper 1/3 of the dormer which is crowned by a finial such as might be used in Amsterdam to hoist furniture.

There are three 1/1 windows on the second floor, and two 1/1 windows on the ground floor west of the large double door. The door, like the house, is large and ambitious but, in the end, simple. It is flanked by unfluted pilasters, and topped by a two-light transom (one light per door); the doors themselves contain two large panes in their upper two-thirds with two recessed panels below. A wide shed roofed one story porch wraps itself across the entire ground floor, including the tower. It has a simple cornice and is supported by square chamfered posts with modest brackets to the north, and with quartered-circle decorations above the hammer braces, and with rows of turned spindles between posts. The porch is painted white, as is all trim, which works well with the grey slate roof, and with the grey clapboarding of the body of the house, to foil the red roof of the tower. The house sits on a steep rise and is approached by a flight of cement steps; under the tower, however, is an only slightly sunken basement glass and aluminum storm door, topped by a dentil cornice and flanked by fluted pilasters.

The six bay west facade, fronting Center Street, is crowned by two twin gables, identical to the Main Street gable. There are two windows on the northern gable's section, with a double 1/1 dentil

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE****PERIOD****AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

**SPECIFIC DATES**

c. 1900

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT**

Dr. Charles Shipley

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The house that Dr. Shipley built around the turn of the century would not be out of place in, say, Cape May. It is, however, if not out of place, at least unusual for Westminster. Straddling the border between the shingle and Queen Anne Styles, the house could be viewed in two ways, either as an aberration, or as an extension of a standard Carroll County house. Certain features place it firmly, if belatedly, within the national "Shingle Movement" - the moderate pitched roof, almost invisible behind the broad gables, the round turret, and the fairly unified color. However, except for chromatic unity, none of these features fit into the general trend of Westminster's domestic building patterns. It could be possible to analyze the house as an overly-decorated, 5-bay, central hall building (as was briefly mentioned in question 7), but it seems better to accept it as a self-wished and, as such, as a visual, aesthetic, and intellectual intermission of Main Street's seemingly perpetual pageant. It was, after all, set back 15 feet from the sidewalk and is situated on a small but definite slope (thus separating it in despite and elevation from its more conforming neighbors).

Ironically, there is near-complete total data on the lot (lot #6 in "New London"). After James White sold the lot to John Logsdon (for 24 pounds), Logsdon became indebted to one Anthony Arnold; both gentlemen decided to settle the matter by selling the lot "and tenement house" to Robert Torbet (or Talbott) for 110 pounds - Frederick County deed Book RP, Page 141, dated June 17, 1777. Eleven years later (May 6, 1788) Torbet sold the place (describing it as having been "formerly inhabited by James White") to his daughters Ann and Elizabeth (WR 8/79). The 60 year ownership of the Torbet family ended when Ann sold to Upton Scott (Carroll County WW 1/318, September 4, 1837, for \$612). Whatever structure existed then must have remained little changed, as the price stays (relatively) constant for the next 4 transactions, viz., Scott to James Diyle (22/277, March 29, 1851 \$535), Diyle to James Bigg (34/322, May 9, 1867 - \$1300). Biggs to Joseph A. Waesellie (62/245, April 4, 1885 - \$1900), and Waesellie to Laura G. Shipley, wife of Dr. Charles Shipley, who built the existing building. Laura Shipley (called here "wife of Dr. Daniel Shipley") sold her house to James and M. Delia Trager (138/285, on April Fool's Day, 1921); when Mrs. Trager was declared non compos mentis, her attorney sold the place to its present owners, Walter T. and Mary Jane Haines (August 6, 1954, who subdivided the house and built the large laundry to the rear.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Being all of lot 6 of the town of New London.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

November, 1976

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Westminster

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

and modillion-corniced window to the south. There are three 1/1 windows on the second floor of the south gable's section. Windows on the ground floor of each section are similar to those on that section's second floor, except that the northernmost of all is now a 4-panel door with a small concrete porch. Three cellar windows (the central one a double window) are in the high cemented over fieldstone foundation.

The south front, which faces a dry cleaners, has one very large gable over its entire length; except for its size, and the fact that its stained glass window is double (as befits the gable's size), this gable's similar to the rest. There is a half-wood, half-glass, green metal awinged door in the west of the second story, with two 1/1 windows to its east; a four-panel door is below that door, on the ground floor. An elaborate system of porches, reached by two flights of steps, is draped over this facade. The porches have post columns. Except for the window in the standardly treated northern gable, the east front is totally blind. This is understandable as, when the building was built, there was, and still is, another building only two feet away.



CARR-370

fire-damaged 19 February 2006

Dr. Charles Shipley House (Haines Apartments, Fat Cat Cafe)

172 East Main Street (MD 32), Westminster

The Downtown Westminster Main Street News – March/April 2006

**Downtown Facade and Renovation Projects Proceed; Fire Strikes The Fat Cat Cafe**

Since the last issue of Main Street News, a couple of large-scale facade renovation projects have been completed, a new facade project has begun and a landmark building caught fire on Main Street. With the exception of re-doing their parking lot, the folks at Bladerunner Hair, Hails & Skin have completed their building renovation and expansion project at 104 East Main Street. The Samuel C. Hoff Agency also completed its major facade renovation to the building at 166 East Main Street. This project included the pointing of the brick and stone foundation, replacement of rotten wood, painting of all the woodwork, installation of a handicap ramp and reconstruction of the Center Street facade that is more in keeping with the original building appearance. The Historical Society of Carroll County has entered into a renovation contract with Hermann Construction to renovate the facade of the old Cockey's Tavern at 216 East Main Street. Due to the nice weather, work is proceeding well. While all of these positive improvements are enhancing downtown's building fabric, a fire on February 19<sup>th</sup> tore a hole into the Downtown Westminster community. The fire at 172 East Main Street not only destroyed a landmark building but also one of Westminster's fine eateries - The Fat Cat Cafe. Fortunately, no one was severely injured. What will happen to the building is still uncertain although now that the fire debris has been cleared away, the building appears to be salvageable. Several parties have expressed an interest in acquiring the property to renovate, but the current owners have made no decision.



104 East Main Street is Complete, except for the repaving of the parking area



166 East Main Street is complete, except for a sidewalk on Center St.



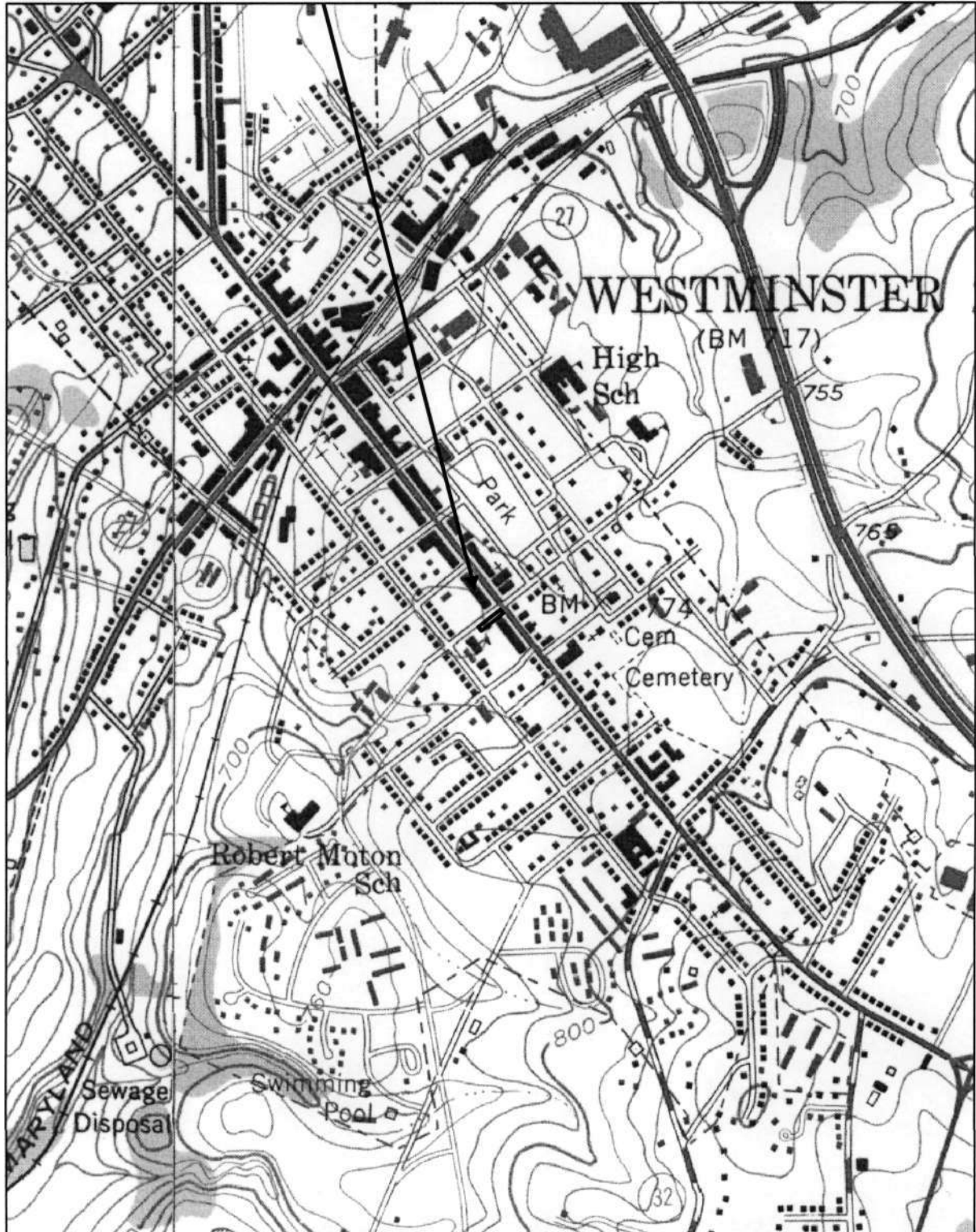
Cockey's Tavern is getting a facelift



The Fat Cat fire debris has been cleared & the area stabilized

<http://www.westgov.com/assets/MainStNews032406.pdf>

CARR-370  
Dr. Charles Shipley House  
East Main Street  
Westminster  
Westminster Quad  
Carroll County





CARR-370

fire-damaged 19 February 2006

Dr. Charles Shipley House (Haines Apartments, Fat Cat Cafe)

172 East Main Street (MD 32), Westminster

Jennifer K. Cosham, 12 April 2006



North elevation



Northeast elevation

50 2/6



CARR 370

172 E. Main St

B Section

B-25



CARR 370

172 E. MA10 ST

WESTMINSTER

N. Jacobs

C. Wick 1/77





CAR 370

172 E. MAIN ST.

Watkins

W. Jacobs

C. Welch 1/77